



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

**Amendment**

LCO No. 3045

**\*SB0006203045SR0\***

Offered by:

SEN. GUGLIELMO, 35<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. NEWTON, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

REP. DARGAN, 115<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. STONE, 134<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 62

File No. 461

Cal. No. 339

**"AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS AND PROTECTION FOR  
VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE MEMBERS."**

1 Strike sections 1 to 4, inclusive, and substitute the following in lieu  
2 thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 5-249 of the general statutes, as amended by  
4 section 1 of public act 03-249, is repealed and the following is  
5 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

6 (a) Any state employee who is an active volunteer firefighter or  
7 member of a volunteer ambulance service or company (1) may, with  
8 the authorization of such employee's appointing authority, be  
9 permitted to leave work in order to respond to fire calls or ambulance  
10 calls during such employee's regular hours of employment without  
11 loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime accumulation,  
12 or (2) shall be permitted to respond to such calls prior to reporting for

13 work without such prior authorization and without loss of pay,  
14 vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime accumulation, provided in  
15 either case, if requested by such employee's appointing authority, such  
16 employee submits a written statement from the chief of the volunteer  
17 fire department or the medical director or chief administrator of the  
18 volunteer ambulance service or company verifying that such employee  
19 responded to a fire or ambulance call and specifying the date, time and  
20 duration of such response.

21 (b) Any state employee who is a certified disaster service volunteer  
22 of the American Red Cross may, with the authorization of such  
23 employee's supervisor, be granted a leave not to exceed fourteen days  
24 in each year to participate in specialized disaster relief services for the  
25 American Red Cross, upon the request of the American Red Cross,  
26 without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime  
27 accumulation.

28 (c) Any state employee who is an active volunteer firefighter or  
29 member of a volunteer ambulance service or company may, with the  
30 authorization of such employee's appointing authority, be allowed to  
31 attend training sessions or drills during such employee's regular hours  
32 of employment without loss of pay, overtime accumulation or sick  
33 leave.

34 (d) Any state employee who is an active member of a volunteer  
35 canine search and rescue team (1) may, with the authorization of such  
36 employee's supervisor, be permitted to leave work in order to respond  
37 to search or rescue calls during such employee's regular hours of  
38 employment without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned  
39 overtime accumulation, or (2) shall be permitted to respond to such  
40 calls prior to reporting for work without such prior authorization and  
41 without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime  
42 accumulation, provided in either case, if requested by such employee's  
43 supervisor, such employee submits a written statement from the chief  
44 of the police or fire department verifying that such employee  
45 responded to a search or rescue call and specifying the date, time and

46 duration of such response. As used in this subsection, "volunteer  
47 canine search and rescue team" means an individual and a dog (A)  
48 appropriately trained and certified to engage in search and rescue  
49 operations by a nonprofit canine search and rescue organization that is  
50 a member of the National Association of Search and Rescue, or its  
51 successor organization, and (B) who jointly engage in such operations  
52 at the request of a police or fire department and provide services  
53 without compensation.

54 Sec. 2. Section 12-81w of the general statutes is repealed and the  
55 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

56 The legislative body of any municipality may establish, by  
57 ordinance, a program to provide property tax relief for the nonsalaried  
58 local director of civil preparedness and for individuals who volunteer  
59 their services as a firefighter, emergency medical technician,  
60 paramedic, civil preparedness staff, an active member of a volunteer  
61 canine search and rescue team, as defined in section 5-249, as amended  
62 by this act, or ambulance driver in the municipality. Such tax relief  
63 may provide either (1) an abatement of up to one thousand dollars in  
64 property taxes due for any fiscal year, or (2) an exemption applicable  
65 to the assessed value of real or personal property up to an amount  
66 equal to the quotient of one million dollars divided by the mill rate, in  
67 effect at the time of assessment, expressed as a whole number of  
68 dollars per one thousand dollars of assessed value. Any ordinance may  
69 authorize interlocal agreements for the purpose of providing property  
70 tax relief to such volunteers who live in one municipality but volunteer  
71 their services in another municipality.

72 Sec. 3. Section 53a-167c of the general statutes, as amended by  
73 section 1 of public act 03-6 and section 126 of public act 03-19, is  
74 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
75 *October 1, 2004*):

76 (a) A person is guilty of assault of public safety or emergency  
77 medical personnel when, with intent to prevent a reasonably

78 identifiable peace officer, firefighter or employee of an emergency  
79 medical service organization, as defined in section 53a-3, emergency  
80 room physician or nurse, active member of a volunteer canine search  
81 and rescue team, as defined in section 5-249, as amended by this act,  
82 employee of the Department of Correction, employee or member of the  
83 Board of Parole, probation officer, employee of the judicial branch  
84 assigned to provide pretrial secure detention and programming  
85 services to juveniles accused of the commission of a delinquent act,  
86 employee of the Department of Children and Families assigned to  
87 provide direct services to children and youth in the care or custody of  
88 the department or employee of a municipal police department  
89 assigned to provide security at the police department's lockup and  
90 holding facility from performing his or her duties, and while such  
91 peace officer, firefighter, employee, physician, nurse, active member,  
92 member or probation officer is acting in the performance of his or her  
93 duties, (1) such person causes physical injury to such peace officer,  
94 firefighter, employee, physician, nurse, active member, member or  
95 probation officer, or (2) such person throws or hurls, or causes to be  
96 thrown or hurled, any rock, bottle, can or other article, object or missile  
97 of any kind capable of causing physical harm, damage or injury, at  
98 such peace officer, firefighter, employee, physician, nurse, active  
99 member, member or probation officer, or (3) such person uses or  
100 causes to be used any mace, tear gas or any like or similar deleterious  
101 agent against such peace officer, firefighter, employee, physician,  
102 nurse, active member, member or probation officer, or (4) such person  
103 throws or hurls, or causes to be thrown or hurled, any paint, dye or  
104 other like or similar staining, discoloring or coloring agent or any type  
105 of offensive or noxious liquid, agent or substance at such peace officer,  
106 firefighter, employee, physician, nurse, active member, member or  
107 probation officer, or (5) such person throws or hurls, or causes to be  
108 thrown or hurled, any bodily fluid including, but not limited to, urine,  
109 feces, blood or saliva at such peace officer, firefighter, employee,  
110 physician, nurse, active member, member or probation officer.

111 (b) Assault of public safety or emergency medical personnel is a

112 class C felony. If any person who is confined in an institution or facility  
113 of the Department of Correction is sentenced to a term of  
114 imprisonment for assault of an employee of the Department of  
115 Correction under this section, such term shall run consecutively to the  
116 term for which the person was serving at the time of the assault.

117 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2004*) (a) Any individual who is  
118 an active member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as  
119 defined in section 5-249 of the general statutes, as amended by this act,  
120 may travel on a train or on any other mode of public transportation,  
121 and may enter or visit any other place of public accommodation which  
122 caters or offers its services or facilities or goods to the general public,  
123 including, but not limited to, any public building, inn, restaurant,  
124 hotel, motel, tourist cabin, place of amusement, resort or any facility of  
125 any such public accommodation, accompanied by the dog in such  
126 team, and such individual may keep such dog with him or her at all  
127 times in any such public accommodation or facility thereof at no extra  
128 charge, provided such team is engaged in a search or rescue operation  
129 and such dog shall be in the direct custody of such individual and shall  
130 wear a harness or red or orange-colored identification. No such  
131 individual shall be charged any fee not applicable alike to all guests,  
132 provided the owner of such dog shall be liable for any damage done to  
133 the premises or facilities by such dog.

134 (b) Any person who denies the rights afforded to individual  
135 members of a volunteer canine search and rescue team under  
136 subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor,  
137 provided such individual member complies with the applicable  
138 provisions of subsection (a) of this section."